(Indicate Clipping is from Dallas)

Warren Papers Reveals Probe of Oswald-FBI Report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Warren Commission discussed a report that Lee Harvey Oswald had worked as an FBI undercover agent for more than a year before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, according to a recently declassified commission transcript.

Members of the commission, including the late Chief Justice Earl Warren and President Ford, who was then a Michigan congressman, discussed the report at a closed session on Jan. 22, 1964.

THE TRANSCRIPT remained classified top secret for 11 years until released to Harold Weisberg, an author who had filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act. Weisberg has written numerous books and articles criticizing the Warren Commission investigation and its conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, shot and killed Kennedy in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

A copy of the transcript was obtained by the Associated Press.

At the start of the meeting, J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the commission, said he had been told by Waggoner Carr, Texas attorney general, that "the word had come out . . . that Oswald is acting as an FBI undercover agent and that they had the information of his badge which was given as number 179, and that he was being paid $200 a month from September of 1962 up through the time of the assassination."

Rankin said he had talked to Henry Wade, Dallas district attorney, who told him the source of the report was a member of the press.

"There is a denial of this in one of these FBI records, as you know," interjected the late Rep. Hale Boggs, D-La., another commission member.

"It is something that would be very difficult to prove out," answered Rankin. "There was events in connections with this that are curious, in that they might make it possible to check some of it out in time I assume that the FBI records would never show it, and if it is true, and of course, we don't know. But we thought you should have the information."

LATER, RANKIN commented that he and Warren had discussed the report and "we said if that was true and it ever came out and could be established, then you would have people think that there was a conspiracy to accomplish this assassination, that nothing the commission did or anybody could dissipate."

The late Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and a member of the Warren Commission, questioned why the FBI would hire Oswald as an undercover agent.

"WHAT WAS THE ostensible relation?" asked Dulles. "I mean, when they hire someone they hire somebody for a purpose . . . Was it to penetrate the Fair Play for Cuba Committee? That is the only thing I can think of where they might have used this man . . . You wouldn't pick up a fellow like this to do an agent's job."

An unidentified speaker brought up the tension between the commission and the FBI and particularly its director, the late J. Edgar Hoover.

"That is somewhat an issue in this case, and I suppose you are all aware of it," said the speaker. Weisberg said that, in this transcript, Rankin is sometimes identified by name when he speaks and sometimes not. Warren never is, he said.

He speculated that the speaker in this case was Rankin.

"THAT IS that the FBI is very explicit that Oswald is the assassin or was the assassin, and they are very explicit that there was no conspiracy, and they are also saying in the same place that they are continuing their investigation," the speaker said.

"Now in my experience of almost nine years," he continued, "it is hard to get them to say when you think you have got a case tight enough to convict somebody that that is the person that committed the crime. In my experience with the FBI they don't do that . . . Why are they so eager to make both of those conclusions, both in the original report and in their experimental report, which is such a departure. Now, that is just circumstantial evidence and it doesn't prove anything about this, but it raises questions."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"The Dallas Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

Page 20-A

Date: 7-18-75

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Tom J. Simmo

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DALL

62-109060-7531

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

JUL 2 1975

FBI — DALLAS